



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

October's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased four-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 4.0 percent as seen in Northeast Table 1. The *Civilian Labor Force* decreased by 900 with many people leaving jobs to return to school and agricultural jobs coming to a close at the end of harvest season. However, *Unemployment* increased by 330 people with layoffs prevalent in *Construction*, *Government Administration*, and *Professional & Business Services*. Of the four counties that comprise the LMA, Bingham County was the only one that didn't experience an unemployment rate increase. It remained unchanged from the previous month, but shared the highest rate of the four counties with Jefferson County at 4.7 percent. Year-over-year, all four counties showed increases in the unemployment rate, although Bonneville and Bingham Counties were very slight. The LMA's rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point with the *Civilian Labor Force* showing an increase of 4,170 people and *Unemployment* increasing by 330 people. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, showed an increase of six-tenths of a percentage point over the month and one-tenth of a percentage point year-over-year to its current 3.8 percent. The unemployment rate for the LMA was 1.2 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 5.2 percent and 1.5 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.5 percent.

Of the other six counties in Northeast Idaho, five saw unemployment rate increases over the month while Teton County showed a slight decrease. Clark County showed the highest rate at 8.1 percent because a potato processing plant laid off employees for yearly maintenance for a short period at the same time statistics were gathered for calculating the rate. Therefore, the number of unemployed people doubled for the month while the *Civilian Labor Force* in-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Sep 2004*	Aug 2004	Sep 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	87,200	88,100	83,030	-1.0	5.0
Unemployment	3,490	3,160	3,160	10.4	10.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.6	3.8		
Total Employment	83,710	84,940	79,870	-1.4	4.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	87,540	89,410	83,250	-2.1	5.2
Unemployment	2,890	3,130	2,640	-7.7	9.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.5	3.2		
Total Employment	84,650	86,280	80,620	-1.9	5.0
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	67,090	67,570	64,830	-0.7	3.5
Goods-Producing Industries	10,940	11,020	10,380	-0.7	5.4
Natural Resources & Mining	70	70	70	0.0	0.0
Construction	5,660	5,800	5,050	-2.4	12.1
Manufacturing	5,210	5,150	5,260	1.2	-1.0
Food Manufacturing	2,820	2,760	2,950	2.2	-4.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	280	280	260	0.0	7.7
Machinery Manufacturing	380	370	390	2.7	-2.6
Other Manufacturing	1,730	1,740	1,660	-0.6	4.2
Service-Providing Industries	56,150	56,550	54,450	-0.7	3.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	15,160	15,090	14,670	0.5	3.3
Wholesale Trade	4,810	4,760	4,670	1.1	3.0
Retail Trade	8,440	8,400	8,130	0.5	3.8
Utilities	110	120	110	-8.3	0.0
Transportation	1,800	1,810	1,750	-0.6	2.9
Information	1,050	1,060	970	-0.9	8.2
Financial Activities	2,250	2,260	2,200	-0.4	2.3
Professional & Business Services	12,160	12,300	11,660	-1.1	4.3
Educational & Health Services	6,990	6,980	6,640	0.1	5.3
Leisure & Hospitality	5,460	5,720	5,080	-4.5	7.5
Other Services	2,120	2,180	2,200	-2.8	-3.6
Government Education	4,940	4,560	4,980	8.3	-0.8
Government Administration	6,020	6,410	6,050	-6.1	-0.5

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

creased by approximately 50 people. Year-over-year, the same five counties showed increases in the unemployment rates while Teton County again showed a very slight decrease. As an average, all nine counties in Northeast Idaho show an unemployment rate of 3.9 percent.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased by 480 over the month. Most of the job losses occurred in the *Service-Providing Industries*. *Government Administration* showed the largest decrease, 390 jobs, with summer seasonal jobs coming to a close. *Leisure & Hospitality* showed a loss of 260 jobs with most tourism jobs ending for the summer season. *Government Education* showed the only significant increase with schools returning to the regular season, an increase of almost 400. Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 2,260

with *Service-Providing Industries* accounting for 1,700 and *Goods-Producing Industries* providing the other 560. *Construction* was up 610 jobs, with activity staying prevalent throughout the LMA and other counties. *Professional & Business Services* was up 500, followed by *Leisure & Hospitality* at 380 jobs, *Educational & Health Services* at 350 jobs, and *Retail Trade* at 310 jobs. Other increases can be noted, but were not as significant. Of the few decreases, only the *Food Manufacturing* sector under the *Manufacturing* industry is noteworthy, which showed a loss of 130 jobs year-over-year.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- Aussie Eats, an Australian restaurant owned by native Brian Hall, opened a second location in Ammon on the corner of Hitt and Sunnyside Roads in the Chevron Station. Along with its other location at 552 North Capital Avenue in Idaho Falls, the restaurant serves meat pies, sausage rolls, and other Australian foods. The new location even offers English-style fish and chips. Ammon also opens for breakfast; hours are 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- The Red Lion Hotel in Idaho Falls on the Snake River, formerly known as WestCoast, Holiday Inn, and Westbank, will soon see another name. The WestCoast Hospitality Corporation, which purchased the Red Lion chain in 2001, is selling several northwest properties in addition to the Idaho Falls hotel. A new owner will most likely be named by the end of 2005.
- The Grand Teton Mall held its grand reopening in November to show off its new multi-million dollar face lift. The renovation started in June and the mall now sports new tile, a new ceiling, family room-style seating, a large play area for children, new facades and signage on entrances, new landscaping, and bike racks. The owner, General Growth Properties, also added the Grand Teton Plaza adjacent to the mall. It includes Ross Dress for Less, PetSmart, Best Buy, and will soon have a Linens 'n Things in operation. The space formerly leased to JJ North's restaurant is available.

Madison County

- The Rexburg local Idaho Commerce & Labor office (formerly known as the Job Service office) moved to its new location at 1133 Stocks Avenue, diagonally across from Artco, in mid-December. The office has increased customer service space and larger conference rooms, which are available for commerce- and labor-related business by reservation. The P. O. Box number (P.O. Box 158) and phone number (557-2501) will remain the same. For more information or directions, call 557-2501.

- Melaleuca Inc. announced plans to double its Rexburg operation to accommodate up to 900 jobs. The company's plan to add 266 desks to the 202 desks already at the location, which will allow part-time and full-time workers to use the desks to capacity. The location in Rexburg started with about 200 workers in January 2001 and had almost 450 workers by November 2004. Nearly 75 percent of these are part-time workers, which has been an advantage for the employer and employees. Most of the employees are Brigham Young University – Idaho students, hired for their bi-lingual abilities. Spanish and French are frequently used languages at the call center. The employees can pursue their education while holding a job that allows them to interact with customers from around the globe. Workers also have the opportunity to move up with the company after finishing their education. The company manufactures and distributes health and beauty aides, cleaning products, and other items. It also has locations in Idaho Falls and Tennessee.
- The Rexburg Gymnastics Center opened in Rexburg at the former United Furniture Warehouse on North Second East in October. The center offers noncompetitive gym programs for toddlers 18 months of age through teens. The gym focuses on developing talent, skills, and exercising that is fun. It also offers the United States of America Gymnastics Association's courses for strength training, stretching, and exercising. The center opened with 100 students, but has capacity for up to 700.
- AmericInn is opening the first week of January 2005 with about 40 employees. With close to 70 rooms, the facility will accommodate many of Rexburg's visitors and has two large conference rooms that can seat 120 and 150 people, respectively. The lodge offers continental breakfast, high-speed Internet access, an exercise room, an indoor pool, and a few whirlpool suites and specialty theme suites. Children aged 12 and under stay free. It is located at the south Rexburg exit off Highway 20, at 1098 Golden Beauty Drive.
- Big O Tires recently opened in Rexburg at 710 North Second East. A small burger stand was moved for construction of the building. The store employs six full-time workers and another six part-time workers. Big O Tires also has more than 10 stores throughout Idaho with two in Idaho Falls.

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